

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-21, and 23-56 are now pending in the application. Claim 13 is amended herein to include the subject matter of claim 22. Claims 23, 24, and 51 are amended herein to be in independent form. New claims 52-56 are added herein. No new matter is added. Claims 22 and 43-50 are cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 43, 44, 47, 48, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Raiser (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0064695). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, in order to expedite the issuance of the instant application as a patent, claims 43, 44, 47, 48, and 50 are cancelled herein. Thus, withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raiser in view of Hamada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,314,762). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, in order to expedite the issuance of the instant application as a patent, claim 13 is amended herein to include the subject matter of objected to claim 22. Thus, withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

Claim 45 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raiser in view of Fuller et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,068,941). Claim 46 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raiser in view of Thomas et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,670,266). Claim 49 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raiser in view of Hamada et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, in order to expedite the issuance of the instant application as a patent, claims 45, 46, and 49 are cancelled herein. Thus, withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 14-18, 22-24, and 51 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 13 is amended herein to include the subject matter of objected to claim 22. Claims 23, 24, and 51 are amended herein to be in independent form. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and withdrawal of all the rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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